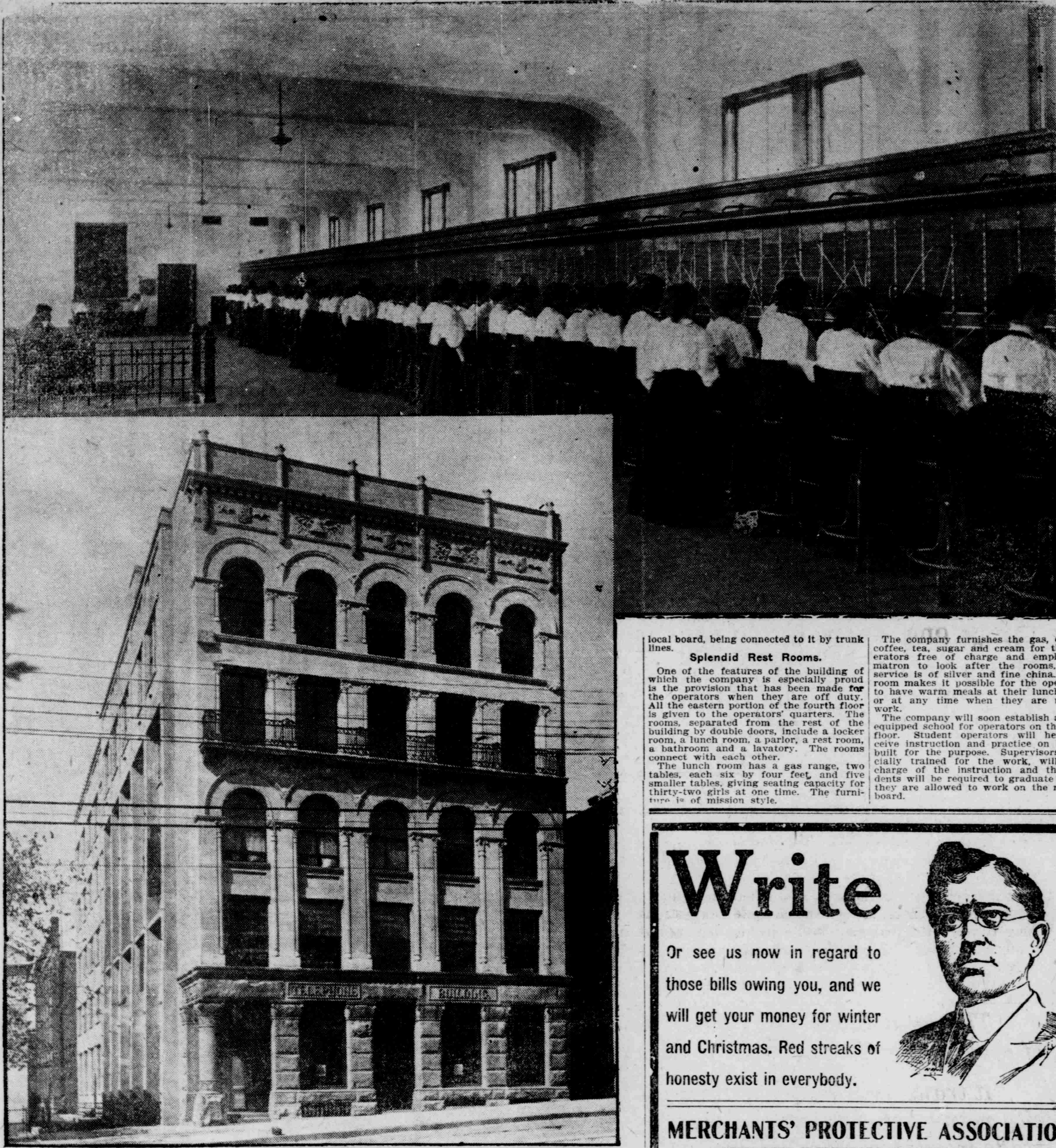


# BELL PHONES WORKING THROUGH NEW SWITCHBOARD



The upper picture is a view of the new local switchboard from the east end of the operating room. The lower picture is of the company's enlarged building on State street.

If you hear a new voice answer your phone calls this morning, you'll know that the "hello girl" who formerly answered you is mastering the calls on another "position" and you'll have to make friends with the new central.

The operators made the change early this morning, and in doing so completed a remarkable work that has been accomplished by the Bell company here. The enlarged building is completed and the addition is the second to be made to the main building by the company in the past five years. As the building stands today, it is five stories high, fifty feet wide and 167 feet deep. The first building erected by the company in 1886 was thirty feet wide, three stories high and ninety-three feet long. The structure is fireproof and as nearly earthquake proof as a modern building can be made. The construction of two stories on top of the building and the addition to the rear was accomplished with difficulty, as the original building was not built strong enough to support the weight of the superstructure just completed without being reinforced. This was done with the reinforced concrete columns visible on the sides of the building.

These immense concrete columns support the entire fifth floor of the building and with the concrete columns running horizontally the building binds the whole into a rigid frame in which the brick walls set. Reinforced concrete was used instead of steel, as the setting up of steel with the noise incidental thereto would have seriously impaired the service of the company during the construction of the addition. The front of the building is of excellent design and is constructed of sandstone. All wire pipes and conduits necessary to the central office of a great telephone system are concealed in the walls of the structure.

In the basement of the building are the

linemen's shop, lockers, offices and school; the carpenter shop; the boiler room, and the engine and power room. The city collections department, the public station, the pay attendant, the order clerk, the billing department, the chief installer, the assignment clerk, the solicitors and collectors, the service observing bureau and the offices of the superintendent of the Salt Lake division are on the ground floor. The offices of the president, general manager, general superintendent, secretary, treasurer, purchasing department, construction department, general contract and collections department, railway department and the directors' room are on the second floor. The legal department, traffic department, engineering department, auditing department and directory bureau are on the third floor. The drafting room, operators' quarters and the terminal and electrical power rooms occupy the fourth floor. The local and long-distance operating rooms occupy the fifth floor.

The fifth floor is one great room with 167 feet by fifty feet clear floor space. The roof is supported by monster concrete beams fifteen feet apart and fifty feet long. These beams rest directly on the great concrete columns and are strong enough to support another story. The room has no pillars and is divided only by glass partitions that inclose the elevator hall and separate the local operating room from the long-distance operating room.

The local operating room has the local switchboard, the information table with six operators, the chief operator's desk and the central manager's desk. The toll room, separated from the local operating room by a glass partition, has the long-distance board, the toll chief's desk and the supervisor's cabinets.

## The New Switchboard.

It is the new switchboard that will most interest local subscribers to the Bell company, for the board is the most improved one of its size manufactured today. It is 110 feet long and is of the latest common battery type and represents the greatest advancement in switchboard construction. With the toll board and other apparatus, it has kept a force of from thirty to eighty men constantly employed since April 18. Twenty-five of these men are expert electricians brought to Salt Lake to install the plant. All the new plant, switchboards, terminal apparatus and machinery was installed for the telephone company by the Western Electric company of Chicago, under the direction of J. J. Campbell, general foreman for the company in the Rocky mountain territory, with J. E. Nichols as foreman of installation.

The new board has a capacity of 9,000 individual lines and the building has been constructed so that the board may be duplicated on the other side of the room. The rest of the plant was installed to allow for this growth, and it is expected that the additional board will be needed in four years or less. Similar provision for growth has been made in the long-distance room.

It requires fifty-six girls to operate the new board. Back of this great board are miles of wire in cables, massed in great layers. The toll board has sixteen positions and may be increased to forty-two positions. It is similar in design to the

local board, being connected to it by trunk lines.

## Splendid Rest Rooms.

One of the features of the building of which the company is especially proud is the provision that has been made for the operators when they are off duty. All the eastern portion of the fourth floor is given to the operators' quarters. The rooms, separated from the rest of the building by double doors, include a locker room, a lunch room, a parlor, a rest room, a bathroom and a lavatory. The rooms connect with each other.

The lunch room has a gas range, two tables, each six by four feet, and five smaller tables, giving seating capacity for thirty-two girls at one time. The furniture is of mission style.

The company furnishes the gas, dishes, coffee, tea, sugar and cream for the operators free of charge and employs a matron to look after the rooms. The service is of silver and fine china. This room makes it possible for the operators to have warm meals at their lunch hour or at any time when they are not at work.

The company will soon establish a well-equipped school for operators on the fifth floor. Student operators will here receive instruction and practice on boards built for the purpose. Supervisors, specially trained for the work, will have charge of the instruction and the students will be required to graduate before they are allowed to work on the regular board.

# Write

Or see us now in regard to those bills owing you, and we will get your money for winter and Christmas. Red streaks of honesty exist in everybody.

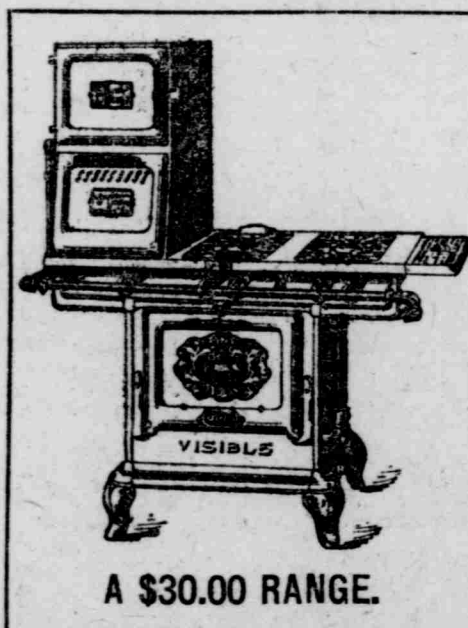


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